

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 10-17 and 19-27 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 10-28 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5-6, 8, AND 10-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER REILLY (US 6,427,164)

In the present application, claims 1, 19, 21, and 23 have a mail storing section (method) temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to old destination mail address, until a new destination mail address is registered by mail address manager.

The Examiner recognizes that Reilly discloses a mail storing section in column 3, lines 29-31.

However, Reilly merely discloses that the forwarding listserver stores "each set of data" for a period of time. In Reilly, "each set of data" means "forwarding information (old electronic mail name and new electronic mail name)." "Each set of data" does not mean e-mail.

Further, Reilly does not seem to cover a state in which neither a new mail nor an old mail address is registered in the mail server. Such a state can temporarily occur, for example, when a user is transferred to another department of a company, and his/her mail address is changed on such an occasion. In the present invention (see claims 1, 19, 21 and 23), a user does not need to consider whether or not such a state is occurring.

Therefore, in claims 1, 19, 21 and 23 of the present invention, if an e-mail has been sent to the destination at the old mail address before registration of the new mail address, the e-mail is stored until the new mail address is registered because the mail storing section temporarily stores a particular e-mail **until a new destination mail address is registered** by the mail address manager. Therefore, the e-mail can be sent exactly to the intended destination upon registration of the new mail address.

In addition, as described in claims 1, 19, 21 and 23, the present invention can guarantee reliable delivery of e-mail to its destination, even when a new address is not registered, for the same reasons stated in the above paragraph.

Amended claims 10-15, 20, 22 and 26 teach a system environment information table create section (method) creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and system environment information of the destination in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information.

Amended claims 16 and 27 teach a mail address list for mailing list system.

Reilly, however, is totally silent about a mail storing section (method), a system environment information table create section (method) and a mail address list for mailing list system. Therefore, it is submitted that the subject matter of claims 1, 10-16, 19-23, 26 and 27 do not read on Reilly.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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